American Born Chinese  
By Gene Luen Yang

American Born Chinese is a **graphic novel** that weaves three different stories together. Jin Wang starts at a new school where he's the only Chinese-American student. Danny is an all-American boy: great at basketball, popular with the girls. But his obnoxious Chinese cousin Chin-Kee's annual visit is such a disaster that it ruins Danny's reputation at school, leaving him with no choice but to transfer somewhere he can start all over again. The Monkey King has lived for thousands of years and mastered the arts of kung fu and the heavenly disciplines. He's ready to join the ranks of the immortal gods in heaven. But there's no place in heaven for a monkey. Each of these characters cannot help himself alone, but how can they possibly help each other? They're going to have to find a way—if they want fix the disasters their lives have become. GoodReads calls this novel "hilarious, poignant and action-packed."

Length: 240 pages

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents  
By Julia Alvarez

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents is a **novel** that gives voice to four sisters growing up in two cultures. Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofia must flee their native country of the Dominican Republic when it is discovered that their father had a role in trying to overthrow the tyrannical government. The sisters arrive in New York City in the 1960s and while their parents try to maintain their culture at home, inevitably, the girls are tempted by a world of straight hair, new clothes, and a new language. America is liberating and challenging as the girls live between two worlds. The four sisters struggle to redefine themselves and their home in the U.S.

Length: 336 Pages
Interpreter of Maladies
By Jhumpa Lahiri

Interpreter of Maladies is a collection of nine short stories by Indian-American author Jhumpa Lahiri. Interpreter of Maladies won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2000. Each short story focuses on characters who are struggling to build a new life beyond their native country and find surprising connections with people who fall outside of their culture and generation.

Length: 198 pages

A Small Place
By Jamaica Kincaid

A Small Place is a work of creative nonfiction by Antiguan-American novelist Jamaica Kincaid. The work reads as a letter or message to the Western traveler arriving on the small island of Antigua, located in the British West Indies. The text explores what the average traveler or tourist would not see-- the colonial history of the island and the impacts that history has had (and has always had) on the Antiguan people. Kincaid focuses on the lives of the Antiguan people and how although the island is a tiny realm, much of what happens is outside of their control.

Length: 81 pages

The Joy Luck Club
By Amy Tan

The Joy Luck Club is a novel about four Chinese immigrant mothers and their four American born daughters. In 1949 the mothers, new to San Francisco, come together to play Mahjong and eventually form “The Joy Luck Club.” Each family experiences their own victories and defeats as they all work through mother-daughter issues and the tensions of maintaining culture and embracing change. United by shared loss and hope, the women come together to work through the joy and pain of their experiences in an effort to ultimately find strength in their communion and friendship.

Length: 288 pages
Summer Reading Assignment for **Option 1**

Once you have completed the novel of your choice, fill out this packet. Be sure to use specific details from the text when necessary. When you return to school in September, you will turn in this packet and complete a written assignment about your summer reading novel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Author:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genre:</td>
<td>Year of publication:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Biographical information about your author:

Your overall recommendation (4-7 complete sentences, please be specific in your likes and dislikes):

Now that you have finished the book, what questions do you have about the book or the author?
Character: Choose one character from your novel and answer the following questions using only that character. Write your character’s name here ⇒

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What motivates your character?</th>
<th>What is your character’s most prominent trait?</th>
<th>When did your character make a choice that changed the direction of his or her story?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Setting: Choose one setting from your text and answer the following questions. Write your setting here ⇒

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How do the characters interact with this particular setting?</th>
<th>Identify one specific scene where the setting is a point of tension or part of the conflict in some way.</th>
<th>What type of mood or atmosphere accompanies this physical setting?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Structure: Each novel has its own unique structure. How has your author organized your novel? If you read the collection of short stories, how are the stories organized? Why do you think your author chose to organize his/her story in the way he/she did?
Theme: All of the books on the summer reading list have a theme or an idea that holds all of the parts to the book together. Answer the following questions considering the big picture of your book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is this book about in terms of theme? What larger idea does the book address? List words or phrases.</th>
<th>How does the book end? How does the ending connect or provide insight on one of the themes/ideas listed in your first column?</th>
<th>Does this book teach a lesson? If so, what is it?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Author’s purpose: What do you think was the author’s purpose in writing this book? Do you think the author is trying to communicate something about his/her own past? Bring a problem to light? Explore a character? Make sure to explain your answer in 4-7 sentences